

Saint Thomas Aquinas Academy

Course of Study

2026-2027



Our Core is Christ

The mission of Saint Thomas Aquinas Academy is to provide an affordable education in the Catholic teaching tradition that inspires in students a life long thirst for knowledge, wisdom, and truth; a desire to reach the full potential which God has intended for them; and a recognition of the discipline of the mind and heart required for effective service to others in the love of God.

Course Handbook

Graduation Requirements:

Theology* 4
English/Language Arts 4
Mathematics 3
Science 3
Social Studies 3.5 (.5 = U.S. Government)
Physical Education 2 (.5 = Health)
Personal Finance .5

Electives** (No electives are required, but students must earn 27 total credits to graduate)

TOTAL Credits 27

*One Theology credit is required for each year in attendance.

**Elective credits constitute any non-core course. I.e: Spanish, Studio Art, etc...

Courses listed are subject to change and are not guaranteed to be offered each year

Courses listed in the catalog will not necessarily be offered every semester. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate the course requests of the student.

Updated 12/22/2025
St. Thomas Aquinas Academy
1200 Main St., Marinette, WI 54143

THEOLOGY

INTRODUCTION TO CATHOLICISM

CREDIT: 1

GRADE 9

The comprehensive introduction to the Catholic faith explains, in a straightforward manner, what it means to be a practicing Catholic. The course enthusiastically examines the following topics: holiness, prayer, the Trinity, Mary, revelation, the Church, Sacred Scripture, the Sacraments and God's Law, the Ten Commandments . Offering an in-depth, yet accessible synopsis of how the faith can and should be practiced in the modern world. This introductory survey provides the necessary foundation for subsequent courses of study in religion.

UNDERSTANDING SCRIPTURE

CREDIT: 1

GRADE 10

The study of Sacred Scripture begins by equipping students with the tools necessary for analyzing and comprehending God's revelation as it was recorded by human authors. It proceeds with a dynamic survey of the major Biblical stories of salvation history. Students will not only learn about these important stories, but they will also encounter them directly through firsthand readings and engaging classroom discussions.

CHURCH HISTORY

CREDIT: 1

GRADE 11

The study of Church history is based solidly on historical fact and viewed through the eyes of faith. Its scope includes the history of the Catholic church from Pentecost to the present day. By making generous use of primary texts, this course delves deeply into the heroic lives of the saints and the tremendous achievements of the church, allowing students to witness the Holy Spirit's guidance of the Church throughout history. It also inspires a deep pride in Christian heritage while offering the means of avoiding the mistakes of the past.

MORAL LIFE IN CHRIST

CREDIT: 1

GRADE 12

Moral theology is the science that enables the human mind to make correct choices guided by the principles set forth by the teaching authority of the Roman Catholic Church. Students begin by utilizing preliminary moral concepts and principles before learning to apply them to concrete circumstances. Special attention is given to life issues such as abortion, euthanasia, and biomedical research. The course will provide students with the essential tools necessary for the living of a moral life and will prove a useful foundation for those students planning to further their studies in theology and philosophy.

THE LORD OF THE RINGS AND CATHOLICISM:

1 CREDIT

GRADE 9-12

The Lord of the Rings is a fantasy series interwoven at its deepest core with the story of Christ and God's creation. In this course you will read the Lord of the Rings and learn and decipher the symbolism of Christ and Salvation history that is present throughout the series. JRR Tolkien described the Lord of the Rings as "The Lord of the Rings is of course a fundamentally religious and Catholic work". As the best works of fiction do, Christian morality, belief and teaching through example is not done in an overt fashion, but develops and teaches Catholic teaching through the examples of selflessness, self sacrifice, faith and hope woven throughout the characters and the world of the Lord of the Rings.

Resources: Students will need to purchase Lord of the Rings Series (3 books, available on Amazon for around \$16)

WORKS OF MERCY:**.5 CREDIT/SEMESTER****GRADE 9-12**

This course invites students to live out the Gospel through hands-on service rooted in Scripture, Catholic Social Teaching, and the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Students participate in organized service projects that address the needs of the parish, local community, and wider world, while engaging in guided reflection, discussion, and prayer to connect their experiences to Christ's call to love, justice, and mercy. Emphasis is placed on discipleship, responsibility, and compassion, helping students understand service as an essential expression of Catholic faith and a lifelong commitment to serving others.

INTRODUCTION TO SACRED MUSIC:**1 CREDIT****GRADE 6-12**

In this class you will learn the rich history of sacred music in the Catholic Church. We will learn about the birth of sacred music and the monophonic chants of St Hildegard of Bingen to the more complex polyphonic chants that developed through the later middle ages into the Renaissance. You will also learn about what sets sacred music apart from secular music and why reverence and sacredness is necessary for the setting of the mass. This, however, will not just be an academic course, you will learn to chant this sacred music as a class.

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS

ENGLISH 9: (INTRO TO GREEK LITERARY GENRES & COMPOSITION)

CREDIT: 1

GRADE 9

This course in literature and composition engages students in the careful reading and analysis of all genres of literature: short story, poetry, novel, essay, etc. As found in the ancient works of masters such as Aesop and Homer. By reading selected literary works, students deepen their understanding of literature. Students will be challenged to consider literary works in relation to their own lives and experiences. The writing component will focus on introducing students to the various forms of writing including description, narration, definition, and classification. Students will continue their sequential study of grammar and vocabulary.

ENGLISH 10: (INTERMEDIATE ROMAN WRITING)

CREDIT 1

GRADE 10

This course in literature and composition engages students in the careful reading and analysis of all genres of literature: short story, poetry, novel, essay, etc. as found in the ancient Roman works of masters such as Virgil and Dante, as well as historians such as Titus Livy, orators such as Cicero, and playwrights such as Seneca and Euripides. By reading selected literary works, students deepen their understanding of literature. Students will be challenged to consider literary works in relation to their own lives and experiences. The writing component will focus on inviting students to become proficient in writing essays. Students will continue their sequential study of grammar and vocabulary.

ENGLISH 11 (BRITISH LITERATURE)

CREDIT: 1

GRADE 11

This course will explore British literature from Beowulf to the Victorian Era paying specific attention to the culture of England. Students will critically read and analyze works of the time periods and genres that have classified British literary history. The goal is also to improve composition skills by practicing writing critical and argumentative essays based on selected readings. This course will focus on writing skills students will need in the world of work or college. Students will perfect the skills of outlining, research, evaluation, and critical thinking. Emphasis will be placed on writing a paraphrase, and an opinion paper. The student will also write a formal research paper. Suggested sources of information will be professional journal articles, newspapers, magazines, speakers, short stories, etc. A research paper on a British author will be the culmination of this course. Students will continue their sequential study of grammar and vocabulary.

ENGLISH 12 (AMERICAN LITERATURE AND THE MODERN WORLD)**CREDIT: 1****GRADE 12**

This course will explore American literature and authors from the Puritan era to Postmodernism, paying specific attention to the time periods and the influences of race, class, and gender in various societies. Selections will include the novel, drama, non-fiction, poetry, and short fiction. Students will focus on close reading skills, note taking, as well as research and writing. The course will conclude through post 1950s novels. Students will research the author, time period, and events of one modern novel to personalize the learning experience. The class focuses on composition writing as well as creative writing assignments. There is outside reading required for successful completion of this course, as the majority of class time will be devoted to discussion and growth-mindset activities. Compositions assigned by the instructor will be due on a regular basis.

INTRODUCTION TO WORLD CULTURES**CREDIT: 1****GRADES 11, 12**

This course is an introduction to cultures, both in our country and around the world. It will include a survey of folk tales, news articles, food and film as well as the eight aspects of culture: Art, Architecture, history, people, cuisine, customs, economy, and geography. It invites students to think about what makes a culture and offers an appreciation of culturally diverse areas. Assessments are predominantly project-based, and working in both small groups and individually, students will come to an understanding about the ways that culture influences literature, art, and thought. In studying other cultures, students will come to appreciate the things that shape their own ideas and how students relate to their own community.

JOURNALISM**CREDIT: ½****GRADES 11, 12**

As an English elective, this course will emphasize the skills and knowledge required to produce a newspaper and contribute to the production of the school's newspaper. Students will uncover the history of journalism, discuss journalistic ethics and think critically about bias reporting. Students will conduct interviews, write in a variety of journalistic forms, and discuss editorial positions.

SPEECH**CREDIT: ½****GRADES 11, 12**

As an English elective, this course will provide an opportunity for students to enhance communication skills through public speaking. Students will explore speaking topics as storytelling, public address, extemporaneous speech, impromptu speech, informative speech, oratory, poetry, and radio news reporting.

LITERATURE THROUGH FILM**CREDIT: ½****GRADES 11, 12**

As an English elective, this course will study the production, aesthetics and history of the 20th century's most important visual medium—the cinema. As a device used in storytelling, historical document, expression of imagination, and artistic object, there is no form more capable of capturing our interest and provoking the senses. The cinema can create worlds of magic, fantasy and romance just as easily as it can expose the dim reality of actually lived life. The primary interest will be in reading—in this case, reading the language of cinema in order to improve our critical understanding of the way texts create meaning.

MATHEMATICS

ALGEBRA I

CREDIT: 1

GRADE 9,10

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Pre-Algebra or a passing score on the placement test.

Algebra I will introduce basic operations involving real numbers, polynomials, factoring, laws of exponents, rational expressions, graphing on the Cartesian plane, and concepts of functions. Daily homework, quizzes, and chapter tests will be given. Note: The student must pass 1st semester to continue with the second semester.

GEOMETRY

CREDIT: 1

GRADE 9,10,11,12

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Students will gain an understanding of the logic methods used in geometric proof. Students will learn properties of parallel lines, congruent triangles, circles, and other two and three dimensional figures. Students will have daily assignments, quizzes, and chapter tests. If the student fails the 1st semester, continuation in this course is at the discretion of the instructor.

ALGEBRA II

CREDIT: 1

GRADE 10,11,12

Prerequisite: Algebra I and Geometry, or consent of the instructor. A student should have maintained a "C" average or better in Algebra I.

Students will review concepts from Algebra I and follow them more in-depth. They will study new ideas in irrational and complex numbers and be introduced to quadratic equations. Daily homework, quizzes, and chapter tests will be given. The students must pass 1st semester to continue with the second semester. This class is a prerequisite for the College Credit Pre-Calculus class.

PRE-CALCULUS

CREDIT: 1

GRADE 11,12

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry with "C" or better.

Course contents include a functional approach to advanced algebra and trigonometry. Polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, circular, and trigonometric functions. (Complex numbers, sequences, and series are also used.)

CALCULUS

CREDIT: 1

GRADE 12

Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus (Math 4) (or equivalent) with "C" or better.

Calculus I is based on the study of real valued functions of a single variable. The course topics include limits and continuity, derivatives, antiderivatives, definite integrals and Riemann Sums. Applications of differentiation and integration are also covered. (Use of a graphing calculator is emphasized.)

SENIOR APPLIED MATH

CREDIT: 1

GRADE 12

Prerequisites: Algebra 1, 2, and Geometry

Senior Applied Math is a course that integrates hands-on laboratory activities, cooperative learning, along with text materials to teach important math concepts by emphasizing problem-solving and decision making through various workplace applications. The activities provide opportunities for students to investigate, construct, and apply algebra and geometry, as well as trigonometric and logarithmic principles through concrete experiences.

Students will learn about energy. Using the NWTC curriculum, students will explore the scientific and economic impacts of energy and society. There will be an emphasis on renewable resources and sustainability. This is a dual credit course through NWTC. There is no cost to our students aside from textbooks.

ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY**CREDIT: 1****GRADE 11, 12*****Prerequisite: Completion of Biology or permission of instructor.***

This course is designed to provide students with the fundamental concepts in human anatomy and physiology. Students will learn the structure of the body parts in each body system during the 1st Semester. Students will learn the physiology of all of the body systems during the 2nd Semester. Brain, heart, and other organ dissections are performed along with a final cat dissection. Pathology and Medical Terminology are emphasized all year. Grades are based on tests, homework, and labs.

GENERAL CHEMISTRY**CREDIT: 1****GRADE 11, 12****NWTC College Credit Available*****Prerequisite: Algebra I with a "C" or better.***

This course will introduce traditional concepts of chemistry involving an in-depth study of the structure of matter and its reactions. Topics covered will include the metric system, applicable problem-solving, periodic relationships, chemical reactions, chemical equilibrium, properties of water; acids, bases, and salts; and gas laws. Conceptual and mathematical understanding of chemistry will be stressed. Evaluation is based on tests, homework, and laboratory work. A scientific calculator is required.

PHYSICS**CREDIT: 1****GRADE 11, 12*****Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra II with a "B" or better.***

This course focuses on classical mechanics and dynamics. It is an in-depth study of motion and forces with an emphasis on problem-solving. Evaluation will consist of tests, homework, and laboratory work. A scientific calculator is required.

SOCIAL STUDIES**WORLD GEOGRAPHY****CREDIT: 1****GRADE 9**

In World Geography students will study the world by connecting human geography, which concerns cultures and societies, and physical geography, which concerns physical landscapes and the environment. This course covers North America, Latin America, Oceania, Asia, Europe, and Africa. Evaluations are conducted by written assignments, projects, map activities, tests, and exams.

UNITED STATES HISTORY**CREDIT: 1****GRADE 10**

United States History is a comprehensive study of late 19th century industrialization through the Vietnam War. The course focuses on economic, political, social and cultural history. Students are required to write one research paper per semester. Other evaluations include projects, tests, and exams.

WORLD HISTORY**CREDIT: 1****GRADE 11**

This is a survey course of human history from prehistory to modernity. The course emphasizes cultural and social history as well as discussing geographic, political, economic and military history. Students will gain a basic understanding of major historical figures, events, and eras. Students will engage with primary and secondary sources and conduct topic specific research; students will write one research paper per quarter. Student evaluations will also be conducted through projects, tests, and exams. This is a writing intensive course.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT**CREDIT: 1/2****GRADE: 12**

This course examines the origins of the United States government by learning about the foundations of government, our government's guiding principles, how our government functions and how we can participate in our government. Students will gain familiarity with the Constitution, the three branches of government, and learn about their representation in all levels of government. Evaluations will include written assignments, tests, and exams.

SOCIOLOGY**CREDIT: ½****GRADE 11, 12**

This course is an introduction to the basic concepts, theories, and methods in sociology. Students will study how the groups and social structure people live in can impact how people think, act and feel. Topics covered include social institutions, behaviors, social changes, race and ethnicity, poverty and crime. Students will conduct research and writing on various topics. Evaluations include written assignments, tests, and exams.

NAZI GERMANY AND THE HOLOCAUST**CREDIT: ½****GRADE 11, 12**

This course examines the roots of antisemitism in Europe, the failings of Weimar Germany, and the rise and fall of Nazi Germany in an attempt to understand the origins and perpetuation of the Holocaust. This course will examine many primary and secondary sources; students will be required to read a Holocaust survivor's memoir, Livia Bitton-Jackson's *I Have Lived a Thousand Years*. Students will view two films: *Sophie Scholl: The Final Days* and *Downfall*. This course contains difficult subject matter and is both reading and writing intensive.

MODERN UNITED STATES**CREDIT: ½****GRADE 11, 12**

This course is an examination of United States History after the Second World War to the post-9/11 world. The course will familiarize students with the United States' rise as a global superpower and the challenges it faced, both foreign and domestic. Students will study 20th Century topics including the Cold War, Korean and Vietnam Wars, Civil Rights Movement, the Rise of Reagan and Conservatism but also explore the United States' response to global terrorism and the new challenges brought on by the 21st century. Students will write one research paper per quarter. Student evaluations will also be conducted through projects, tests, and exams. This is a writing intensive course.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Limited to 6 semesters)

HEALTH

CREDIT: ½

GRADE 9-12

Health is taught to all freshmen and is a state requirement. Students will study the seven components of health, self concept, reproduction, tobacco, drugs, alcohol, mental illness, communicable and noncommunicable disease and nutrition. Current health issues and readings related to these will be used to supplement and enhance the learning process. Comprehensive outside reading and research is used to supplement and enhance the learning process.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION I

CREDIT: ½

GRADE 9,10

Physical Education will be taught to all students and is a state requirement. The focus of Physical Education I will be to teach students a variety of team sports. Emphasis will be placed on rules and regulations of each game and encouragement of the student to learn an appreciation of physical activity. Students will develop physical fitness and personal health. Units to be covered may include: Soccer, Lacrosse, Pickleball, Badminton, Weight Training, Team Handball, Volleyball, Softball, Fitness testing and Flag Football.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION II

CREDIT: 1

GRADE 10, 11

Physical Education will be taught to all students and is a state requirement. The focus of Physical Education II will be to teach students a variety of individual sports and lifetime activities. Emphasis will be placed on rules and regulations of each game and encouragement of the student to learn an activity to keep them active throughout their lifetime. Units to be covered may include: Badminton, Pickleball, Table Tennis, Shuffleboard, Bowling, Frisbee, Handball, Horseshoes, Bocce, Weight Training, Aerobics, Volleyball, Dance and Golf.

NUTRITION AND FITNESS

CREDIT: ½

GRADE 10, 11

This course will mix food with physical fitness as study of the significance of lifestyle on health, athletic performance, and weight maintenance. The class will help students attain practical fitness and nutrition goals and apply healthy food choices to snacking, home cooking, and eating out. Assume control and responsibility for living a long and healthy life. Experience a variety of fitness and cooking experiences. Develop an optimum level of physical fitness as we explore fitness concepts and prepare food to enhance body composition. Classes will alternate between studies and experiences with nutrition topics and participation in fitness workouts.

WEIGHT TRAINING I & II

CREDIT: ½

GRADE 11, 12

This course is open to students who are interested in developing a lifelong activity and/or program to fill their personal needs for fitness. In the classroom, students will learn how to build a fitness program, training principles, nutrition, the dangers of performance enhancing substances, and the biology behind muscles. In the weight room students will work on a fitness program that is set in four phases. Students will be required to record activity. Weight training II will develop their own programs and work with fitness/lifting applications.

WORLD LANGUAGES

SPANISH I **CREDIT: 1** **GRADE 9,10,11,12**

This course is designed to introduce basic Spanish vocabulary and grammar skills, as well as introducing the culture of Spanish speaking countries. Instruction will focus on acquiring listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. This course will prepare students to go on to Spanish II.

SPANISH II **CREDIT: 1** **GRADE 9,10,11,12**

Prerequisite: successful completion of Spanish I.

This course is a continuation of Spanish I. It builds upon and advances listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. The culture of Spanish speaking countries will be explored through a variety of resources. This course prepares students to go on to Spanish III.

SPANISH III **CREDIT: 1** **GRADE 10,11,12**

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish II.

This course helps the intermediate level Spanish student expand upon skills learned in Spanish I and II, with the objective of acquiring greater fluency in speaking and writing, and greater comprehension in listening and reading. History and culture of Spanish speaking countries is explored in greater depth through selected readings in literature, as well as a variety of other media.

SPANISH IV **CREDIT: 1** **GRADE 11,12**

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish III.

This course is intended for advanced students and continues reviewing and refining vocabulary and grammar skills learned in previous classes, and focuses on advanced grammar, reading, writing and listening skills. Classic works of Spanish and Latin-American literature will be studied, along with a continuation of history, geography, culture and current events.

SPANISH V **CREDIT: 1** **GRADE 12**

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish IV.

This course is intended to prepare the college-bound student for advanced placement within a university curriculum. Instruction and communication during class will be entirely in Spanish, and will focus on advanced studies in vocabulary, grammar, composition and literature.

FRENCH I **CREDIT: 1** **GRADE 9,10,11,12**

This course is an introduction to the French Language and culture. The fundamentals of French pronunciation, grammar and culture are presented through the balanced development of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.

FRENCH II & III **CREDIT: 1** **GRADE 10,11,12**

Prerequisite: successful completion of French I or II.

The course is a continuation of French I. It builds upon and advances the listening, speaking, reading and writing skills of the student. The activities allow students to use French in a wide range of settings and contexts and culture-related scenarios.

ELECTIVE COURSES

STUDIO ART I

CREDIT: 1

GRADE 9,10,11,12

Studio Art I is a full year introductory art course which will acquaint the student with basic materials and techniques in the areas of drawing, painting, graphics, lettering, sculpture, ceramics, and crafts. Studio Art I will also introduce the student to art history and appreciation by relating these elements to projects done in class. The aim of the course is to foster the development of the individual and his/her creative ability, as well as an appreciation of the visual arts as a vital part of life.

STUDIO ART II

CREDIT: 1

GRADE 10,11,12

Studio Art II is a year-long course in continuation of Art I. In this course the student will continue the study of art history and the development of the creative abilities of the students. Students will advance in their drawing, painting, and ceramics. They will also be responsible for projects in sculpture, ceramics, and crafts. Students will be permitted to advance to more difficult projects if the desire and talent is present.

STUDIO ART III

CREDIT: 1

GRADE 11,12

Studio Art III is designed to transition dedicated art students into independent fields of artistic expression. During this third year of advanced art instruction, students are encouraged to select personal projects to demonstrate mastery of skills practiced during Studio Art I & II.

ACCOUNTING I

CREDIT: 1

GRADE 10,11,12

This course covers all principles of the accounting cycle. Students will begin by using T accounts, then learn procedures such as entering transactions into journals, posting to ledgers, completing worksheets, preparing financial statements, adjustments and closing entries. Additional topics covered will include payroll, petty cash and depreciation.

ACCOUNTING 2

CREDIT: 1

GRADE 11,12

As an extension of Accounting I, this course covers more complex concepts in accounting, to provide a more realistic environment to simulate the role of an accountant.

ST. NORBERT COLLEGE - INTRODUCTION TO EDUCATION

GRADE 11, 12

Prerequisite: Students must have administrative approval.

This course will assist you on your journey to becoming an educator. Teaching is an art as well as a science. Learning how to be an effective educator by building relationships, establishing and maintaining routines, helping students to reach their potential, and offering a viable, effective curriculum is the key to this vocation.

